

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2417

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

S E C R E T GEORGETOWN 0342

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 (IMPDET)

TAGS:ASEC

SUBJECT: ALLEGED THREAT TO LIFE OF EMBASSY GEORGETOWN OFFICER

REF: A) BRIDGETOWN 0245 B) GEORGETOWN 0285

C) STATE 036582 D) BRIDGETOWN 0223

1. AS REPORTED SEPARATELY GUYANESE FONMIN WILLS ASKED ME TO DROP BY FONOFF FEB 16 TO TALK ABOUT HIS MEETING IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK. NINETY-MINUTE TOUR D'HORIZON AFFORDED IDEAL OPENING TO RAISE WITH HIM MATTER OF THREAT TO EMBASSY OFFICER IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDANCE CONTAINED REFTELS.

2. DURING DISCUSSION OF RELATIONS WITH GUYANA'S NEIGHBORS AND CONCERN EXPRESSED BY PM THAT BRAZIL IS ENGAGED IN DESTABILIZING ACTIVITIES, I TOLD WILLS I HAD NOT HAD CHANCE TO INFORM HIM ABOUT MY INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS BY PM AND HIMSELF THAT OUR JUNIOR OFFICER MAURICE PARKER WAS MAKING REMARKS HOSTILE TO GOG AND APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO CAMPAIGN OF DESTABILIZATION. I NOTED WILLS HAD ALREADY GOTTEN STRONG ASSURANCE FROM HIGH USG OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON THAT USG WAS NOT OUT TO UNDERMINE GUYANA'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THAT GUYANE PER SE WOULD NOT POSE ANY THREAT TO OUR SECURITY. PARKER, I WENT ON, HELD NOTHING BUT FRIENDLY FEELINGS FOR GUYANA, AND I HAD VERIFIED THIS NOT ONLY DIRECTLY FROM PARKER BUT FROM OUTSIDERS WHO SEE PARKER

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FREQUENTLY. PARKER CUDGELED HIS MEMORY AND THE ONLY EVENTS HE COULD REMEMBER WHICH MIGHT HAVE FORMED A BASIS FOR THE REPORTS GIVEN

THE PM WERE A COUPLE OF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS AT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS WHERE HE HAD BEEN PRESENT. SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS HAD CRITICIZED THE GOG FAIRLY SEVERELY, BUT PARKER SAID HE HAD BEEN PRINCIPALLY A LISTENER. I SAID I HAD TOLD PARKER AND ALL EMBASSY OFFICERS TO BE CAREFUL IN FUTURE NOT TO ALLOW INFERENCE THAT BY REMAINING SILENT IN PRESENCE OF CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT GOG OR GUYANA, THEY WERE GIVING ASSENT. I CAUTIONED THEM FURTHER THAT I WOULD DEAL SUMMARILY WITH ANY INDICATION THAT INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS WERE NOT ACCURATELY REFLECTING THE FRIENDLY STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN GUYANA AND U.S.

3. AT THIS POINT I TOLD WILLS I HAD TO RAISE WITH HIM A RELATED MATTER WHICH HAD COME TO MY ATTENTION DURING HIS ABSENCE AND WHICH WAS DISTURBING TO ME AND TO MY GOVT. REPORTS HAD BEGUN TO REACH ME NOT ONLY FROM WITHIN GUYANA BUT ALSO FROM OUTSIDE, TO EFFECT THAT IT WAS WIDELY BELIEVED (AND PRESUMABLY TALKED ABOUT) THAT CIA STATION

CHIEF HERE WAS EMBASSY'S DCM MATTHEWS. HOWEVER, THERE WAS ELEMENT OF CONFUSION IN THAT ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS THE STATION CHIEF WAS A BLACK AMERICAN. THIS SORT OF SPECULATION WAS NOT NEW, ESPECIALLY SINCE PUBLICATION OF QUOTE INSIDE STORIES UNQUOTE BY EX-CIA AGENTS. WHAT REALLY DISTURBED ME WAS THAT IDENTITY SPECULATION WAS COUPLED WITH INDICATION OF THREAT TO LIFE OF INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED AS STATION CHIEF.

4. I SAID WILLS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY FAMILAR WITH VIENNA CONVENTION WHICH INCORPORATES PREVIOUSLY WIDELY ACCEPTED NORM OF INTERNATIONAL COMITY THAT HOST GOVT ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONAL SAFETY OF DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO IT. I SAID IN THE LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, I FELT I HAD TO BRING THE MATTER TO HIS ATTENTION AND WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT THE GOG WOULD PROPOSE TO DO UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. I ADDED THAT I COULD GET VERY LITTLE REASSURANCES FROM SPEECHES SUCH AS THAT OF GOG MINISTER FOR ECON DEVEL HOYTE'S OF WHICH HE RECITED PERTINENT PORTIONS (PARA 6 REFTEL B). I ENDED WITH DETAILS ABOUT SCHEDULED TERMINATION OF MATTHEWS AND PARKER'S TOURS.

5. WILLS SAID HE SHARED MY CONCEN AND WOULD RAISE THIS MATTER WITH PM BURNHAM THAT SAME EVENING. HE SAID IT WAS TOO BAD THAT OUR OWN

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PRESS HAD BEEN LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOCUSING ATTENTION THE CIA AND THEREBY GIVING ENCOURAGEMENT TO HOSTILE ELEMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHO WERE NOW ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY NOT ONLY THE CIA ORGANIZATION BUT THE PEOPLE SERVING UNDER ITS BANNER. HE SAID HE WOULD GET BACK TO ME VERY SOON.

KREBS

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NNN

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